

SC036240

Registered provider: Derby City Council

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to six children and young people with social and emotional needs.

There are currently four children living at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in July 2024.

Inspection dates: 3 and 4 June 2025

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 16 July 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
16/07/2024	Full	Good
24/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
08/02/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
09/11/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children live in a home that is maintained to a good standard. Staff work hard to ensure that the home feels cosy and inviting for children. There have been recent efforts to adapt the use of spaces within the home. Children now have several rooms where they can talk privately with professionals or choose to spend time away from other children. As a result, children are choosing to spend increasing amounts of time outside of their bedrooms.

Children are in education and working towards personalised milestones. When children are not enrolled at school the manager is tenacious to ensure that children are quickly able to access provisions right for them. One child was well supported to progress from tutoring within the home to a specialist provision. They are now able to learn alongside their peers for the first time in several years.

Children are supported to experience fun and special activities. Staff listen to the interests of the children and quickly establish local groups and trips out that they can attend. This is valued by children and prevents children becoming socially isolated. One child was well supported to explore their gender identity at a local specialist group.

Children have clear and considered plans in place. Information is set out in a logical and accessible way for staff to follow. They help staff to understand children's needs in the wider context of their historical experiences. Staff understand the purpose of the child's care and how they can support their progress. Consequently, children are cared for by staff who are empathetic and understand the needs of children well.

Children are well supported when they move into and out of the home. The manager prioritises planned transitions, so children experience these positively. Some children have been supported to move into foster care following the consistent and stable care offered at the home.

Staff and managers build warm and trusting relationships with children. Children can express their views and identify staff that they trust and can talk openly with. However, Children's meetings are not currently taking place. This means children do not have a regular opportunity to work collaboratively with their peers to influence their care in the home.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

There have been serious incidents in the home, and on occasion staff have been injured by children when they have become upset. Staff understand their required actions to keep children safe and have a focus on de-escalating situations. They support children to understand the consequences of their actions whilst remaining curious about what may be informing their behaviour and how this can be prevented in the future. Children are

not shamed by staff and there is a focus on repairing relationships. Children recognise that staff care for them unconditionally and this has encouraged more positive behaviour in recent months.

When children make complaints or allegations about staff these are taken seriously by managers. There is appropriate and timely escalation of concerns to safeguarding partners. Where there are concerns about staff practice, they do not work in the home until investigations are complete. The manager keeps clear and chronological recordings, which evidence excellent multi-agency working to resolve matters.

Some children have struggled to stay safe online. Where there have been concerns staff have temporarily removed devices. Staff then work directly with children to ascertain their ability to use the internet safely and to understand the potential risks online. The manager is now prioritising activities that encourage children away from screens and their bedrooms. This has been well received and is encouraging better dynamics amongst children.

There have been occasions where children have been injured during a restraint hold. Managers are curious about how restraint incidents are experienced by children. Managers appropriately raise concerns about restraint practice with staff members involved. Decisive action taken by the manager has safeguarded children effectively. Recordings of holds could however be clearer. Documents are not always clear about what hold has been undertaken and the outcomes of conversations held by the social worker with the involved child.

Several children take medication. Recently, some children have been appropriately supported to manage these independently, in line with their age and ability. Staff do not consistently ensure that audits happen for when children take medication independently. There is not yet a recorded agreement in place to manage this change of care plan.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is run by a committed and dynamic management team. They understand the unique strengths of staff members and utilise these effectively. Staff value having regular team meetings and a chance to discuss and adapt practice. Staff shared that they enjoy working at the home and that there is good morale amongst the team.

The manager works excellently with involved professionals. Those spoken to shared that the manager is a clear communicator and advocates well for children. One social worker shared that working with the manager was one of the most effective working relationships he had experienced in his career.

The manager prioritises training for staff. Staff access comprehensive mandatory training in addition to bespoke training, to meet the needs of children. Staff have particularly valued recent training about autism. The manager has encouraged staff to complete the required qualification, and staff are committed to this learning. As a result, children are being cared for by staff who are well informed and skilled.

The manager uses auditing systems to identify both good practice and areas of improvement. Social workers receive a monthly overview of children's progress. These pictorially celebrate children's progress and are important contributions to their future understanding of their time spent at the home.

Supervisions of staff are not occurring on a consistent basis. This means staff do not always have the space to reflect on incidents or discuss personal matters regularly. Managers do not yet ensure that supervision meetings are set in advance and prioritised by staff.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)) This particularly refers to supervision of staff taking place regularly and particularly following difficult incidents.	7 July 2025

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that records of restraint must be kept and should enable the registered person and staff to review the use of control, discipline and restraint to identify effective practice and respond promptly where any issues or trends of concern emerge. The review should provide the opportunity for amending practice to ensure it meets the needs of each child. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 49, paragraph 9.59)
- The registered person should ensure that records must be kept of the administration of all medication, which includes occasions when prescribed medication is refused. Regulation 23 requires the registered person to ensure that they make suitable arrangements to manage, administer and dispose of any medication. These are fundamentally the same sorts of arrangements as a good parent would make but are subject to additional safeguards. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 35, paragraph 7.1)
- The registered person should ensure that children must be consulted regularly on their views about the home's care, to inform and support continued improvement in the quality of care provided. Due consideration should be given to the child's cognitive ability in the development and implementation of any consultation processes. Children should be able to see the results of their views being listened to and acted upon—children's meetings. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.11)

Information about this inspection

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations including the quality standards'.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC036240

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Derby City Council

Registered provider address: The Council House, Corporation Street, Derby DE1 2FS

Responsible individual: Sharon Green

Registered manager: Cheryl Lawrence

Inspector

Louise Copping, Social Care Inspector

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